

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CAPE T 01571 141231Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-15 CU-06 IO-14 HA-05 MCT-01 SY-05  
/111 W

-----119135 141233Z /17

P 140828Z NOV 77  
FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6519  
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY  
USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 1571

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINS, SF  
SUBJ: BUILDING AT PRESTIGIOUS AFRIKAANS SCHOOL DESTROYED BY FIRE

SUMMARY: ONE OF THE MAIN BUILDINGS AT THE JAN VAN RIEBEECK  
PRIMARY SCHOOL IN CAPE TOWN WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED BY  
FIRE LAST NIGHT. AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT RPT NOT YET ISSUED  
STATEMENT AS TO CAUSE. END SUMMARY

1. THE ORIGINAL BUILDING OF THE PRESTIGIOUS JAN VAN RIEBEECK  
PRIMARY SCHOOL IN CAPE TOWN WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE LAST NIGHT  
FOLLOWING A "LOUD EXPLOSION" HEARD BY RESIDENTS IN THE AREA.  
THE SCHOOL HAD BEEN THE TARGET OF ARSON ATTEMPTS ON FOUR  
PREVIOUS OCCASIONS IN THE PAST YEAR. THE LAST ONE, IN APRIL  
THIS YEAR, RESULTED IN DAMAGE OF R20,000 TO THE SCHOOL HALL  
AND RESULTED IN PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATOR MUNNIK OFFERING  
A REWARD FOR CAPTURE OF THE ARSONISTS.

2. THE VAN RIEBEECK SCHOOL IS ONE OF THE MOST  
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PRESTIGIOUS IN CAPE TOWN, INCLUDING ADMINISTRATOR  
MANNIK'S DAUGHTER AMONG ITS STUDENTS. AUTHORITIES  
HAVE AS YET ISSUED NO RPT NO DAMAGE ESTIMATE OR STATEMENT  
CONCERNING CAUSE OF FIRE, ALTHOUGH ACCORDING TO  
PRESS REPORTS POLICE CONFIRMED THAT COURTYARD OF  
SCHOOL HAD BEEN BROKEN INTO AND THAT CAUSE OF  
EXPLOSION WAS BEING INVESTIGATED. GIVEN FACT OF

EXPLOSION AND PREVIOUS HISTORY, THERE IS STRONG PRESUMPTION  
THAT THIS WAS LATEST IN SERIES OF POLITICALLY  
MOTIVATED ARSON ATTACKS.WHITE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SCHOOLS, FIRES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 14-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977CAPET01571  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770420-0881  
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**From:** CAPE TOWN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 1ff3f31a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 605680  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BUILDING AT PRESTIGIOUS AFRIKAANS SCHOOL DESTROYED BY FIRE SUMMARY: ONE OF THE MAIN BUILDINGS AT THE JAN VAN RIEBEECK PRIMARY SCHOOL IN CAPE TOWN WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED  
**TAGS:** PINS, SF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009